

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:313

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004

ANTI-RABIES/ANTI-VENON DRUGS VACCINES

Singh Shri Suraj;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government supplies Anti-Rabies and Anti-Venom drugs/vaccines to Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details of the demand, supply and consumption of these drugs/vaccines;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of the said drugs/vaccines;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to increase the availability of these drugs/vaccines;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to subsidize the drugs/vaccines manufactured by reputed companies and make them available through the Primary Health Centres and the Government Hospitals; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 313 FOR 22ND DECEMBER, 2004

Government of India does not supply anti-rabies and anti-venom drugs/vaccines to Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals. These are procured by the State Health authorities directly from the respective manufacturing units on payment basis.

The details of demand, supply and consumption of these vaccines/sera are not centrally maintained. While the Neural Tissue Anti Rabies Vaccine is envisaged to be phased out from 1.1.2005, the installed capacity for Anti Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) (in the public and private sectors) are 13, 660 litres and 169 lakh doses, respectively.

Clinical trials are being conducted for introduction of intra-dermal route of TCARV. On its introduction, less number of doses of TCARV would be required resulting in lesser cost of treatment and increased availability of TCARV. As regards the availability of ASVS/Anti Rabies Serum, the Committee for Prevention, Control and Supervision of Experimentation on Animals (CPCSEA) has prescribed guidelines for use of equines in the production of vaccines/sera as a result of which the availability of equines meeting the requirement of the guidelines went down. This has led to certain shortage of production of ASVS. The guidelines are being revised by a committee set up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

At present, there is no proposal to subsidize these vaccines/sera.